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United Nations

Commission on Population and Development

Report on the forty-first session (13 April 2007 and 7-11 April 2008)

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Commission on Population and Development

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

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Summary

The forty-first session of the Commission on Population and Development was held at United Nations Headquarters on 13 April 2007 and from 7 to 11 April 2008. Its special theme was "Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development".

The documents before the Commission included the report of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring, focusing on the special theme. The report reviewed trends in and prospects for urban and rural population growth and changes in the population of cities. It discussed the relative contribution of natural increase and the combination of rural-urban migration and reclassification to the growth of the urban population. It considered the relative importance of different types of internal migration and described the implications of population distribution for urban and rural dependency ratios. It documented the impact of urbanization on poverty reduction and reviewed current knowledge on differentials in access to services and demographic behaviour in relation to urban or rural residence, giving particular attention to outcomes for the urban poor. The report also documented major policy developments in regard to population distribution and underscored the importance of urbanization for economic growth and human well-being, concluding that urbanization's positive aspects should be leveraged while working to prevent or minimize its ills.

The Commission also considered the report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meetings and a report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development. Another report considered by the Commission focused on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; that report showed that, although donor assistance had been growing over the past few years, the increase was mostly the result of higher funding for HIV/AIDS activities. Lastly, the Commission reviewed the implementation of the programme of work of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in 2007 and a note by the Secretary-General on subprogramme 6, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011.

The Commission heard keynote addresses by David Satterthwaite, Senior Fellow, Human Settlements Programme, International Institute for Environment and Development, London; Mark Montgomery, Senior Associate, Policy Research Division, Population Council, New York; Helen Zille, Mayor, Cape Town, South Africa; and Eduardo Moreno, Chief, Global Urban Observatory, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Nairobi.

In its consideration of actions to follow up the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Commission decided that the theme of its forty-third session, to be held in 2010, would be "Health, morbidity, mortality and development". The Commission also adopted a resolution on national, regional and international action on the subject of population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development. In that resolution, the Commission recognized that the world population was undergoing a historic and unprecedented transformation from being mostly rural to being predominantly urban,

with major disparities in the level of urbanization remaining among regions and countries. With the number of urban dwellers in developing countries growing significantly, future population growth would be concentrated primarily in the urban areas of developing countries, particularly in small and medium-sized cities. The Commission considered that the rapid urbanization of the world's population required integrated and participatory approaches to spatial management, including through coordinated action between national Governments and local authorities, with the support of the international community. In this regard, the resolution urged Governments to promote linkages between urban and rural areas in recognition of their economic, social and environmental interdependence. In the same resolution, the Commission called upon Governments to address the challenges and opportunities of urban growth and internal migration by taking prompt, forward-looking and sustained action to ensure that those phenomena would have a positive impact on economic growth, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability and, in doing so, to enable the participation and representation of all relevant stakeholders in planning for an urban future. The resolution also called upon the international community to support the efforts of developing countries in this regard, including through building capacities to respond to these challenges and opportunities.

The Commission heard a statement by the President of the Economic and Social Council on the new functions of the Council (relating to the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum) and the opportunities arising from those new functions for further interaction between the Council and the Commission on Population and Development. The statement was followed by an informal dialogue with members of the Commission.

The Commission also approved the draft provisional agenda for its forty-second session and adopted the report on its forty-first session.

[7 May 2008]

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision

1. The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-first session and provisional agenda for its forty-second session

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-first session;[1]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Commission as set out below:

1. Election of officers.[2]

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

Report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meetings

3. Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on the contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 5* (E/2008/25).

[2] In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2005/213, the Commission, immediately following the close of its forty-first session, will hold the first meeting of its forty-second session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chairman and other officers of the Commission, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules and procedure of the functional commissions of the Council.

internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

4. Contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

5. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2008

6. Contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2009.

7. Provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Commission

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-second session.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following resolution and decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 2008/1
Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development

The Commission on Population and Development,

Recalling the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[3] in particular chapter IX, on population distribution, urbanization and internal migration, and the key actions for further implementation of the Programme of Action,[4] in particular section II.D, on internal migration, population distribution and urban agglomerations,

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] See General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex; *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first special session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S-21/5/Rev.1); and A/S-21/PV.9.

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration[5] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[6] as well as General Assembly resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals,

Recalling further the relevant provisions on population distribution, urbanization and internal migration and development contained, inter alia, in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[7] Agenda 21,[8] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[9] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[10] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[11] the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and its Programme of Action,[12] the Habitat Agenda[13] and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[14] as well as the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS of 2 June 2006,[15] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[16] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[17] and the Barbados Programme of Action,[18]

Recognizing that the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation are integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development and that the achievement of the goals of the Programme of Action is consistent with and makes an essential contribution to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing also that the world population is undergoing a historic and unprecedented transformation from being mostly rural to being predominantly

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[5] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[6] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[7] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex I.

[8] Ibid., annex II.

[9] General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex.

[10] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[11] Ibid., chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[12] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[13] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[14] General Assembly resolution S-25/2, annex.

[15] See General Assembly resolution 60/262, annex.

[16] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[17] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[18] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

urban, but that major disparities in the level of urbanization remain among regions and countries, with Africa and Asia still being mostly rural and other regions being highly urbanized, and therefore that this transformation requires integrated and participatory approaches to spatial management, including through coordinated action between national Governments and local authorities, with the support of the international community,

Recognizing further the negative impact of environmental degradation, including climate change, on population distribution, internal migration, urbanization and development, as well as the challenges that rural and urban transformations carry for environmental sustainability,

Noting that the number of urban dwellers in developing countries is growing significantly and that future population growth will be concentrated primarily in the urban areas of developing countries, particularly in small and medium-sized cities,

Recognizing that natural increase, internal migration and the reclassification of rural areas as urban contribute to urban population growth,

Recognizing also that the levels of poverty are highest in rural areas, that poverty levels are increasing in the urban areas of some developing countries and that the urban poor are especially vulnerable and often have no other option but to live in slums, which are characterized by overcrowded conditions, unsafe housing, crime and other social problems, and lack of access to improved water sources, sanitation and health services,

Recognizing further that in developing countries, there are differences among urban settings regarding access to social services,

Recalling the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out at the International Conference on Population and Development, integrating this goal in strategies to attain the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring[19] and on the monitoring of population programmes,[20] both of which focus on population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development, and taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[21]

Acknowledging that for developing countries that cannot generate sufficient resources, the lack of adequate funding remains the chief constraint to the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and urging the international community, including Governments of both donors and developing countries, to continue to mobilize the required resources for the full implementation of the Programme of Action, taking into consideration current needs,

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[19] E/CN.9/2008/3 and Corr.1.
[20] E/CN.9/2008/4.
[21] E/CN.9/2008/5.

Recognizing that poverty, unemployment, hunger and malnutrition are some of the major causes of migration from rural to urban areas in many developing countries,

Affirming that all States and all people should cooperate to eradicate poverty and attain sustainable development in order to decrease disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world,

1. *Reaffirms* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[3] and the key actions for its further implementation;[4]

2. *Calls upon* Governments, in formulating population distribution policies, to ensure that their objectives and goals are consistent with internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the eradication of poverty in both urban and rural areas, the promotion of gender equality, equity and empowerment of women and environmental sustainability;

3. *Reaffirms* the commitments to, and emphasizes the need to fully implement, the global partnership for development set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[16] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[11] and to enhance the momentum generated by the 2005 World Summit in order to operationalize and implement, at all levels, the commitments set out in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the 2005 World Summit, in the economic, social and related fields;

4. *Calls upon* Governments to address the challenges and opportunities of urban growth and internal migration by taking prompt, forward-looking and sustained action to ensure that those phenomena have a positive impact on economic growth, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability and, in doing so, to enable the participation and representation of all relevant stakeholders in planning for an urban future, and calls upon the international community to support the efforts of developing countries in this regard, including through building capacities to respond to these challenges and opportunities;

5. *Urges* Governments to promote development that would encourage linkages between urban and rural areas in recognition of their economic, social and environmental interdependence;

6. *Emphasizes* the need to eradicate poverty in rural areas, including through strategies that, integrating a gender perspective, are aimed at promoting interactions between cities and rural localities, particularly by generating employment for rural residents, creating opportunities to market agricultural products in urban areas and facilitating access to credit, education, vocational training and health services for rural residents and rural-urban migrants;

7. *Also emphasizes*, in the context of population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development, and bearing in mind national priorities, the importance of establishing and funding active labour market policies devoted to the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including the full participation of women in all international and national development and

poverty eradication strategies, the creation of more and better jobs for women, both urban and rural, and their inclusion in social protection and social dialogue;

8. *Urges* Governments to improve the plight of the urban poor, many of whom work in the informal sector of the economy, and to promote the integration of internal migrants from rural areas into urban areas by developing and improving their income-earning capability, with special attention to women, in particular female workers and female heads of households;

9. *Calls upon* Governments to take into account the impacts of population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development in the formulation of family-sensitive policies in the field of housing, work, health, social security and education;

10. *Also calls upon* Governments to increase the capacity and competence of city and municipal authorities to manage urban development to safeguard the environment, to respond to the need of all citizens, including young people and urban squatters, for personal safety, basic infrastructure and services, to eliminate health and social problems, including problems of drugs and criminality, and problems resulting from overcrowding and disasters, and to provide people with alternatives to living in areas prone to natural and man-made disasters;

11. *Urges* Governments to promote healthy living in both rural and urban areas in all spheres of health, including sexual and reproductive health, in particular the improvement of maternal, child and adolescent health, and efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality, in the light of the challenges and opportunities presented by population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development;

12. *Calls upon* Governments to develop and implement policies aimed at ensuring that all persons, irrespective of where they live, have adequate economic and social protection during old age;

13. *Recognizes* that the effective implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development requires an increased commitment of financial resources, both domestically and externally, and in this context calls upon developed countries to complement the national financial efforts of developing countries related to population and development and to intensify their efforts to transfer new and additional resources to the developing countries, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Programme of Action, in order to ensure that population and development objectives and goals are met;

14. *Notes* that recent increases in the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action have been primarily a result of the increased funding for HIV/AIDS activities, and expresses concern that funding for family planning is far below the suggested targets;

15. *Encourages* Governments, in formulating and implementing policies, strategies and programmes on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and on other communicable diseases, to focus on the diverse and special needs of urban and rural populations and of migrant populations, including temporary migrants, and emphasizes the need to address the overall expansion and feminization of the HIV/AIDS pandemic;

16. *Also encourages* Governments to promote the principles and practice of sustainable urbanization in order to address environmental issues, including climate change, thereby reducing the vulnerability of the low-income sectors of society to the risks posed by environmental impacts in a rapidly urbanizing world, and invites the international donor community to support the efforts of developing countries in this regard;

17. *Urges* Governments to set up or, where they already exist, to strengthen relevant institutions and mechanisms for spatially disaggregated data collection, demographic estimates and projections by age, sex and household composition linked to environmental, economic and social issues at the national and local levels in order to inform policy formulation, regional, urban and rural planning, the planning of service provision, investment decisions or advocacy in favour of vulnerable and marginalized groups, bearing in mind the gender perspective;

18. *Stresses* the need for technical and financial support for the activities associated with the preparation and conduct of the 2010 round of population censuses, which will provide important data on urban and rural development;

19. *Acknowledges* that the United Nations regional commissions play an important role in adapting the international population and development agenda to the regional contexts, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue relying on the regional commissions for the implementation of the regional population and development agendas;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, in the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, his substantive work on population distribution, urbanization and internal migration, including integrating a gender perspective into its analyses and recommendations, in collaboration and coordination with relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant international organizations, and to continue assessing the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives on population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development set out in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, giving due consideration to their implications for development.

Decision 2008/101
Special theme for the Commission on Population and Development in 2010*

The Commission on Population and Development decides that the special theme for the forty-third session of the Commission in 2010 shall be "Health, morbidity, mortality and development".

Decision 2008/102
Documents considered by the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-first session

The Commission on Population and Development takes note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2007: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs;[22]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011: Subprogramme 6, Population, of programme 7, Economic and Social Affairs.[23]

* For the discussion see chap. II, paras. 18 and 19.
[22] E/CN.9/2008/6.
[23] E/CN.9/2008/7.

Chapter II

Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development

3. The Commission held a general discussion on item 3 of its agenda, entitled "Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development", at its 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th meetings, on 7, 8 and 9 April 2008. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring, focusing on population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development (E/CN.9/2008/3 and Corr.1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development (E/CN.9/2008/4);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2008/5);

(d) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.9/2008/NGO/1, E/CN.9/2008/NGO/2 and E/CN.9/2007/NGO/3);

4. At the 2nd meeting, on 7 April, introductory statements were made by the Assistant Director of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; the Chief of the Population and Development Branch, Technical Support Division, United Nations Population Fund; and the Senior Project Adviser of the Population and Development Branch.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union and associated countries), China and Kazakhstan.

6. At its 3rd meeting, on 7 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Brazil, Bangladesh, Indonesia, the United States of America, Kenya and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

7. At the same meeting, the representatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific also made statements.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made remarks.

Keynote addresses

9. At the 3rd meeting, on 7 April, the keynote speaker, David Satterthwaite, Senior Fellow at the International Institute for Environment and Development, London, made a presentation. The Commission engaged in an interactive dialogue

with the keynote speaker, in which the representatives of Qatar, Norway, South Africa, France, Cuba, Italy, the Philippines and Pakistan took part.

10. At the 4th meeting, on 8 April, the keynote speaker, Mark Montgomery, Senior Associate in the Policy Research Division, Population Council, and Professor in the Economics Department, State University of New York at Stony Brook, made a presentation. The Commission engaged in an interactive dialogue with the keynote speaker, in which the representatives of Norway, Mexico and Belgium took part.

11. At the 5th meeting, on 8 April, the keynote speaker, Helen Zille, Mayor of Cape Town and former Minister of Education in Western Cape province, South Africa, made a presentation. The Commission engaged in an interactive dialogue with the keynote speaker, in which the representatives of Switzerland, Mexico, France, Sweden, Norway and the United States of America took part.

12. At the 6th meeting, on 9 April 2008, the keynote speaker, Eduardo Moreno, Chief of the Global Urban Observatory of the Monitoring System Branch of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Nairobi, made a presentation. The Commission engaged in an interactive dialogue with the keynote speaker, in which the representatives of South Africa, Spain and China took part.

Action taken by the Commission

Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development

13. At its 8th meeting, on 11 April, the Commission had before it the text of a draft resolution, submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations, subsequently issued as document E/CN.9/2008/L.4.

14. Also at the 8th meeting, the Vice-Chairman, Fredrick Matwang'a (Kenya), reported on the outcome of informal consultations and made oral revisions to the text of the draft resolution.

15. At the same meeting, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Cuba, France, Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the States members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union) and the Russian Federation.

16. Also at the 8th meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 2008/1).

17. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America.

Special theme for the Commission on Population and Development in 2010

18. At the 8th meeting, on 11 April, the Chairman read out the text of a draft decision entitled "Special theme for the Commission on Population and Development in 2010".

19. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2008/1).

Chapter III

General debate on national experience in population matters: population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development

20. The Commission held a general discussion on item 4 of its agenda, entitled "General debate on national experience in population matters: population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development" at its 4th, 5th and 6th meetings, on 8 and 9 April 2008.

21. At its 4th meeting, on 8 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Bulgaria, South Africa, China, the Russian Federation, Austria, Pakistan, Colombia, Kenya, Belgium, Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, Armenia, Jamaica and Ghana.

22. At its 5th meeting, on 8 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Poland, Uruguay, Canada, Portugal, Botswana, Morocco, Switzerland, Spain, the Philippines, Cuba, Mexico, India, the United States of America, Italy, Qatar and Sri Lanka.

23. At its 6th meeting, on 9 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Japan, Sweden and Peru, as well as by the observer of the Holy See.

24. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the International Organization for Migration, as well as by the observers for AARP and the World Youth Alliance, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Chapter IV

Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

25. The Commission held a general discussion on item 5 of its agenda, entitled "Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population", at its 6th meeting, on 9 April 2008. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2007: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2008/6);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011: subprogramme 6, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs (E/CN.9/2008/7).

26. At its 6th meeting, on 9 April, the Commission heard an introductory statement by the representative of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

27. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Norway, Cuba, Jamaica, Morocco and China.

28. Also at the 6th meeting, the representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean made statements.

29. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, responded to comments and questions raised.

30. Also at the 6th meeting, the observer for the International Planned Parenthood Federation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, made a statement.

Action taken by the Commission

Documents considered by the Commission under agenda item 5

31. At its 8th meeting, on 11 April, upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission took note of two documents submitted under agenda item 5 (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2008/2).

Chapter V
Other matters

Address by President of the Economic and Social Council

32. At the 7th meeting, on 10 April, as recommended by the Bureau of the Commission and in line with General Assembly resolution 61/16, the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed the Commission under agenda item 2, entitled "Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters", on the various ways in which the Commission may contribute to the new mandates of the Economic and Social Council, namely, those relating to the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum.

33. Also at the same meeting, the President of the Council responded to questions and comments raised by the representatives of the United States of America and Spain.

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Commission

34. At its 8th meeting, on 11 April, the Commission had before it the provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2008/L.2).

35. At the same meeting, the Secretary read out the revisions to the provisional agenda that had been agreed during the informal consultations and circulated in an informal paper.

36. Also at the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of Cuba, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A).

Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-first session

37. At the 8th meeting, on 11 April, the Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur, Hossein Gharibi (Islamic Republic of Iran) introduced the draft report on the forty-first session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2008/L.3).

38. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and authorized the Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur to finalize it.

Chapter VIII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

39. The Commission held its forty-first session at United Nations Headquarters on 13 April 2007 and from 7 to 11 April 2008. The Commission held eight meetings (1st to 8th).

40. The 2nd meeting, on 7 April 2008, was opened by the Chairperson of the Commission, Ivan Piperkov (Bulgaria), who also made a statement.

41. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund addressed the Commission.

42. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made opening remarks.

B. Attendance

43. The session was attended by 47 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and non-Member States, representatives of organizations and other entities of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations also attended. The list of participants is available in document E/CN.9/2008/INF/1 and Add.1.

C. Election of officers

44. At its 1st meeting, on 13 April 2007, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairperson

Ivan Piperkov (Bulgaria)

Vice-Chairpersons

Hossein Gharibi (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Fredrick Matwang'a (Kenya)
Alicia Melgar (Uruguay)

45. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 April 2008, the Commission elected Pauline Eizema Netherlands), Vice-Chairperson and designated Vice-Chairman Hossein Gharibi (Islamic Republic of Iran) to also serve as Rapporteur for the session.

D. Report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meetings

46. At the 2nd meeting, on 7 April, the Chairman introduced the report of the Bureau on its intersessional meetings (E/CN.9/2008/2).

47. At the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of Morocco, the Commission took note of the report.

E. Agenda

48. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 April, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda (E/CN.9/2008/1), which read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development.
4. General debate on national experience in population matters: population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development.
5. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.
6. Provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-first session.

49. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of work, as set out in document E/CN.9/2008/L.1.

F. Documentation

50. The list of documents before the Commission at its forty-first session is available on the website of the Population Division (http://www.unpopulation.org).

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